

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 SY-05 DHA-02

SSO-00 /027 W

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O 132015Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5642

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, AR (CIRCO, DENNIS)

SUBJECT: W/W DENNIS CIRCO

REF: A) STATE 116862, B) BUENOS AIRES 3069, C) HILL/BARTCH TELECON
AND PREVIOUS

1. FONMINISTER'S RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR URGENT REPEAT URGENT
APPOINTMENT MADE ON MONDAY MORNING MAY 10TH WAS TO GRANT
APPOINTMENT ON FRIDAY MAY 14 AT 1700 HOURS.

2. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF MATTER BY EMBASSY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR WITH CHIEF AMERICAN AFFAIRS SECTION MINISTER
MEDUS, IN ORDER TO BRIEF FONMIN ON SUBJECT OF APPOINTMENT,
REVEALED MINISTRY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT LOOK FAVORABLY UPON A
REQUEST TO HAVE CIRCO EXPELLED. IN ADDITION MEDUS SAW NO
REASON FOR MINISTRY TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN ARRANGING CIRCO'S SUR-
RENDER TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER CANCELLED.

4. CIRCO WAS ACCORDINGLY INFORMED THAT EXPULSION BY AUTHORITIES
FROM ARGENTINA APPEARED UNLIKELY, AT LEAST UNTIL A JUDICIAL
DETERMINATION HAD BEEN MADE OF HIS CASE.

5. HE WAS TOLD TO CALL HIS ATTORNEY OR ATTORNEYS AND ASK
THEM TO COME TO THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH A
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CONSULAR OFFICER WHAT MEANS WERE APPROPRIATE FOR EFFECTING HIS

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER AND TO WHAT AUTHORITY: JUDGE IN VILLA DOLORES, FEDERAL JUDGE IN BUENOS AIRES, OR TO HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF FEDERAL POLICE. CONOFF ALSO WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH ATTORNEY POSSIBILITY THAT A CHANGE OF VENUE MIGHT BE OBTAINED FROM MUNICIPAL COURT IN VILLA DOLORES TO A FEDERAL COURT IN BUENOS AIRES.

6. CIRCO PROCRASTINATED ON THIS REQUEST THROUGH WEDNESDAY MAY 12TH, IN THE MEANTIME DEPARTING THE EMBASSY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS ON PERSONAL MATTERS.

7. AS JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS PRESENCE IN EMBASSY WAS BASED ON HIS ALLEGED FEAR OF BODILY HARM, HIS CONTINUED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES FROM THE EMBASSY WERE CONSIDERED INCONSISTENT WITH HIS REASON FOR BEING THERE AND TO DIMINISH OUR JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS PRESENCE ON THE CHANCERY.

8. ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON MAY 12 CIRCO WAS INFORMED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE UP HIS MIND ON WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO AND THAT WEDNESDAY WAS THE LAST NIGHT HE COULD CONINUE TO REMAIN THE CHANCERY. HE WAS AGAIN ASKED TO HAVE HIS ATTORNEY(S) COME TO THE EMBASSY FOR A MEETING, WITH A COUNSULAR OFFICER, AT 0830 HOURS THURSDAY MAY 13.

9. UPON ARRIVING AT CHANCERY AROUND 0800 HOURS MAY 13, CONOFF DISCOVERED CIRCO HAD SIGNED OUT IN THE MARINE GUARD LOG AT 2150 HOURS MAY 12, 1976 STATING IN THE LOG THAT HE WAS LEAVING OF HIS OWN VOLITION. BASED ON POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT RETURN TO EMBASSY DURING MORNING MAY 13TH, PREPARATION OF THIS TELEGRAM DELAYED UNTIL NOON. AS HE HAD NOT APPEARED OR OTHERWISE CONTACTED EMBASSY BY NOON TODAY, WE ASSUME HE HAS DECIDED TO ATTEMPT DEPARTURE FROM ARGENTINA WITH ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDS. CIRCO HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THIS POSSIBILITY AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT WHILE EMBASSY UNABLE TO ASSIST HIM IN THIS REGARD, WE LIKEWISE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO IN ANY WAY RESTRAIN HIS MOVEMENT.

10. IN THE EVENT WE HAVE NO NEWS OF HIS WHEREABOUTS BY TOMORROW, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE TO INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY HE HAS DEPARTED CHANCERY AND PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

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11. DEPT WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY NEWS OR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE.

12. DEPT REQUESTED TO PASS AS MUCH OF FOREGOING TO CONGRESSMAN MCCOLLISTER AS IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS03197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760185-0584
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760559/aaaabyta.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 116862, 76 BUENOS AIRES 3069
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <07 JUL 2004 by ElyME, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <28 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W DENNIS CIRCO
TAGS: CASC, AR, (CIRCO, DENNIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006